

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 are pending in this application.

The Rejections under Prior Art

Claims 1-5 and 7-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Vyakarnam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,365,149) in view of Tsubouchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,815,427). Claim 1 is amended to more clearly recite that the porous body comprises a porous sericin skeleton.

Vyakarnam et al. is directed to porous tissue scaffoldings for the repair or regeneration of tissue, but does not mention sericin. Tsubouchi et al. is directed to sericin-containing material for biological applications as mentioned at column 5, lines 25-30, and column 13, lines 31-38. The Examiner, in essence, argues that it would be obvious to add the sericin of Tsubouchi et al. to the foams of Vyakarnam (by adsorption or backfilling) to obtain the claimed invention of this application.

This rejection does not properly address the claims which recite sericin as a skeleton constituent of a porous body. Vyakarnam et al. disclose a porous body wherein the porous scaffold is composed of bioabsorbable polymers such as disclosed at columns 9-12. Combining the teachings of Tsubouchi et al. results in adding sericin to the body of Vyakarnam et al. by adsorption or filling voids. However, there is no suggestion to substitute the bioabsorbable polymers of the skeletal matrix of Vyakarnam et al. with sericin. Rather such a combination results in coating the already fabricated matrix or filling the voids. Thus, the sericin of

Tsubouchi et al. would not be a skeletal constituent of the already made porous foam body of Vyakarnam et al. Even if the teachings of Tsubouchi et al. were combined with those of Vyakarnam et al., Applicants' invention would not be disclosed or suggested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

#### The New claims

New independent claim 14 is added herein and recites that the porous body comprises a skeleton consisting essentially of sericin.

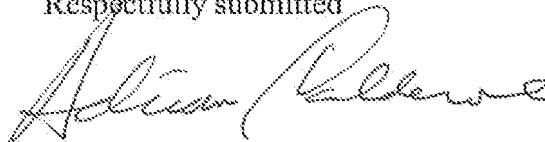
New independent claim 15 is directed to a porous body obtained by gelling an aqueous solution containing sericin with an average molecular weight of 30,000 to 40,000, thereafter freezing the resulting gel and then allowing the frozen gel to thaw.

New claim 16 depends from claim 1 and is directed to the method by which the porous sericin skeleton of claim 1 is obtained.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above all of the pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, the same being respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adrian T. Calderone".

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